

*Civilisation and Races of Southern
Italy* 399

(San Giovanni at the meeting of the sea and the Oreto), the new palace (Palazzo Reale), and Castellamare.

The situation of Palermo might well attract the princes who made it their capital. It was the greatest city of an island which abounded in wealth and in desirable things. In the mountains around Messina iron was to be found, in Etna and the central plateaux abundant sulphur and petroleum, in Trapani were salt mines. The sugar-cane was grown by the Moslems of Sicily; it is probable that under Roger II., sugar refineries existed in Palermo, under Frederick II., at least, the Crown encouraged this industry. The manufacture of cotton was probably already known in the island, as it certainly was in Spain, in the first half of the twelfth century; the stream of the Papireto on the south-west of Palermo provided the papyrus reeds; Roger II.'s commands that all titles to property should be renewed on account of the originals being eaten by wood-lice, implies at least that paper made from cotton was already as much in use as parchment. *

To the enterprising and highly civilised Moslems of Sicily, Italy, among other things, owed the

convenience of paper and the luxury
of cotton.
The same race produced a noble pottery
in Palermo
and Mazzara. It was from Palermo
that Italy
learned the art of silk-weaving, as
perhaps Sicily
learned it from the Greeks.

¹ Amari, *S. D. Af.*, iii., p, 58 *seq.*